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The Modern Household. By MARION TALBOT and SOPHONISBA PRESTON BRECKINRIDGE. Boston: Whitcomb & Barrows, 1912. 8vo, pp. vi+93. \$1.00 net.

This little book aims "to indicate the wide range of interests which are the field in which the progressive housekeeper may serve and enjoy." It attempts to state rather than to solve the problems faced by the conscientious mother in apportioning expenditure upon various objects, in buying food and clothing, in employing domestic service, in assigning tasks to her children, in requiring sanitary methods and fair working conditions within the business enterprises which she patronizes, and the like. Each of the ten chapters is followed by a page or two of questions provocative of discussion, and by a list of recent books treating relevant topics at greater length.

While the book is no manual of housekeeping, it has a practical rather than a theoretical tone. The authors do not hesitate to give advice upon points which seem to them clear. For example, they say that meat should not be eaten more than once or at most twice a day (p. 30), that the kitchen should never be closed to the children (p. 70), that the family budget should be considered in a family council in which even the youngest child has a voice (p. 76), and that the housekeeper "will appropriate the ballot as a domestic necessity" (p. 86). But on most of the problems raised the writers express no definite conclusion, because the problems involve indeterminate elements—choice among various aims of living, or scientific knowledge which research has not yet provided.

As here presented the housewife's task seems, not easier, but more difficult than is commonly supposed. To show the precise character of these difficulties, however, may well be the best way of preparing to overcome them. It is certainly a service to disprove the current illusion that the factory system has left the housewife without a job. Her work in spending money differs from that of her grandmother in making goods; but it demands at least as much intelligence, taste, judgment, and conscience as were required of colonial dames.

WESLEY C. MITCHELL

LONDON

The American Occupation of the Philippines, 1898-1912. By JAMES H. BLOUNT. New York: Putnam, 1912. 8vo, pp. xxi+664. \$4.00.

In view of the discussion which is taking place over the Democratic proposal for Philippine independence, Judge Blount's book is of timely interest. The author was an officer in the volunteer army, serving in Cuba and the Philippines

from 1898 to 1901, and a United States district judge in the Philippines from 1901 to 1905. In 1904 he was invalided home and since that time has written and spoken continuously in favor of immediate independence.

The author tells us in the preface that the object of the book is "an attempt by one whose intimate acquaintance with two remotely separated peoples will be denied in no quarter to interpret each to the other." He further defines his task as that of making "audible to a great free nation the voice of a weaker subject people who passionately and rightly long to be also free, but whose longings have been systematically denied for the last fourteen years, sometimes ignorantly, sometimes viciously, and always cruelly, on the wholly erroneous idea that where the end is benevolent, it justifies the means, regardless of the means necessary to the end." Such a statement as this indicates a point of view which will make some skeptical of the writer's ability to interpret fairly the ideals and purposes of the American people toward their distant wards. He has such strong belief in the Filipinos—their character and their ability to govern themselves—that he thinks we ought to give them their independence, "even if we have to guarantee it to them." But, he says, "by neutralization treaties with the other great powers similar to those which safeguard the integrity and independence of Switzerland today, whereby the other powers would agree not to seize the Islands after we give them their independence, the Philippines can be made as permanently neutral territory in Asiatic politics as Switzerland is today in European politics."

One is led to ask why, if the Filipinos are entirely capable of self-government at once, we should not withdraw and let them pay for their own defense from the start. Furthermore, one suspects the author does not realize that neutralization implies free trade, and that free trade would cut off the principal source of revenue. It is hard to believe that the political oligarchy in the Philippines that is calling loudly for independence would wish it if its members had to tax themselves directly to carry on the government.

Judge Blount makes the unqualified statement that "whether the Filipinos are fit for self-government or not, we are certainly wholly unfit to govern them." Some of us are convinced that, on the whole, our administration of the Philippines adds a rather bright page to the history of the government of dependencies. We know that we have made the people effectively acquainted with public and private hygiene; that good progress has been made in building roads and establishing means of communication with practically every part of the archipelago; that peace and protection of property are now real; that religious toleration does prevail; and that the efficient public schools which we have established are doing much to overcome the ignorance of the people—95 per cent of whom are said to be illiterate.

Again, Judge Blount practically ignores the large and very real participation in self-government which the Filipinos have today. One would never know from reading *The American Occupation of the Philippines* that there are four native members out of nine of the Commission, or upper house; that the

chief justice and two justices of the supreme court, about one-half of all the higher judicial officers, and all of the justices of the peace are natives; that the natives have complete control in the municipalities, the right to elect two-thirds of the provincial governing boards, and the lower house of the insular legislature. Today all the municipal employees, and over 90 per cent of the officials and employees of the central government are Filipinos. A large part of the book is devoted to a rather tedious account of military operations and pacification measures. There is needless repetition throughout. The author assures us a dozen times and over that he does not know "how to draw an indictment against a whole people." The style of the book is loose, personal, and militant, but nevertheless interesting.

A History of the Presidency from 1897 to 1909. By EDWARD STANWOOD.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1912. 8vo, pp. 298. \$1.75 net.

Those who have read Dr. Edward Stanwood's *History of the Presidency from 1788 to 1897* will welcome the announcement of a second volume covering the period 1897 to 1909. The style of the latter follows closely that of the former, the chief departure being in the extent of space given. Two hundred and fourteen pages tell the story of the three campaigns beginning with 1900, while 539 pages sufficed for the previous twenty-seven periods. The platforms of the various political units, which reveal vividly the political problems at hand as well as the drift of public sentiment, are quoted in full. Those of the recent canvass of 1912, which are more elaborate than those formerly framed, appear as an appendix of 44 pages. The predominant issue in 1900 was whether the nation should or should not extend its realm beyond the borders of the continent; the year 1904 marked the beginning of a propaganda for social and industrial reform, attended by numerous clashes between the chief executive and a Congress for the most part conservative; while the year 1908 ushered in an era of progressive insurgency, destined two years later to change the ratio of power of the dominant parties in Congress, and four years later to bring in a Democratic régime. The author devotes his closing chapter to a review of the growth of the powers of the president, in the matter of removals from office, the use of the veto power, and the relations between the president and Congress.

A detailed account of the leading issues of each campaign for the presidency, together with a complete record of the achievements and failures of each administration, might well constitute a history of our nation too cumbersome for ordinary use; but the author has endeavored to avoid any unnecessary elaboration of those issues having but remote influence upon the period in question. As suggested in the preface, since he who is most competent to prepare such a history must necessarily have been affiliated with one of the leading parties, he labors under the disadvantage of having a partisan viewpoint not readily controlled. Despite this fact, however, the work is characteristically free from any bias which might vitiate its value. On the whole, the